

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for consideration given the present application. Claims 1-8, 10-13, 19 and 20-23 are currently pending. Claims 1, 5, 11 and 20 have been amended through this reply. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. Claims 21-23 have been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seeks timely allowance of all pending claims.

Amendment

Amendments made to the claims do not add any new matter and do not raise any new issues.

Interview

Applicant thanks Examiner Hsieh for the courtesies extended during the October 15, 2008 telephone interview. The substance of the interview is made of record by incorporating a summary of the interview in the remarks set forth below.

The Claim Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 11-13 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,269,440 to Ueda in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0044320 to Ono et al. (Ono); and rejects claims 4-8, 10 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ueda in view Ono and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,310,536 to Desclos et al. (Desclos). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 11 recite, *inter alia*, “each connecting conductor includes an at least partly ring-shaped portion and the substantially entire at least partly ring-shaped portion is conductive.” The applied references fail to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claims 1 and 11.

As discussed and acknowledged during October 15, 2008 telephone interview, Ono fails to teach or suggest that the substantially entire at least partly ring-shaped portion of the each connecting conductor is conductive. Udea and Desclos fail to cure the deficiencies of Ono. Thus, the applied references, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claims 1 and 11.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claims 1 and 11 are patentably distinct from the applied references. The dependent claims are at least allowable by virtue of their dependency on corresponding allowable independent claims 1 and 11.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims based on the applied references is respectfully requested.

New Claims

Claims 21-23 have been added. Claim 21 covers an aspect of the present invention of a capacitance formed by a plane of the first connecting conductor and a plane of the second connecting conductor, as in an example stated at page 3, first full paragraph, of the present specification. Applicant submits that the cited prior art fail to show at least this aspect of the present invention, as recited in claim 21.

Claims 22 and 23 cover a further relationship between capacitance of claim 21 and changes in the relative position of the first casing and the second casing (claim 22), and changes in the opposing area of the one plane of the first connecting conductor and the one plane of the second connecting conductor (claim 23). (see Figs. 7A and 7B). Applicant submits that the cited prior art fail to show at least the features recited in claims 22 and 23.

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Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert Downs Reg. No. 48,222 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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